

## How are assessments carried out?

We have a legal duty to assess:

- What is working well?
- What is not working well?
- What would make a difference?

We offer two options for assessments of children and their carers.

**1. Proportionate Assessment** – for families looking for a small amount of support that can make a difference. It is shorter and less detailed than the full assessment. It is available to all age groups and is particularly relevant for pre-school children as their longer-term needs are not yet clear.

**2. Full Assessment** – a more in-depth exploration of your child and family's needs. It involves a number of visits with you and your child and gathering information from other agencies who are involved with your child.

The assessment is a conversation between you, your child and a member of our team to gather information about your child and their needs. Being the parent or carer for a child with a disability can be complex and challenging at times. The assessment process gives us an opportunity to understand what the additional pressures are and how this impacts on your family life. You can prepare for the assessment by beginning to think about:

- What is working well?
- What is not working well?
- What would make a difference?

There is a waiting list for assessment. If your circumstances change from the point of referral you should let us know and we may be able to start your child's assessment sooner.

## Self-Directed Support (SDS)

We have a legal duty to give children, young people and families who are eligible for a personal budget as much control as they want over their support.

There are four SDS options:

1. **you can receive money directly to spend on what you need (this is called a direct payment)**
2. **you decide and direct how you want to spend your budget but choose not to take responsibility for the financial management**
3. **you request that we arrange and manage your support**
4. **a combination of the options above.**

For more information visit

**[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/Self-Directed-Support](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/Self-Directed-Support)**

where you can also find our leaflet "*my support, my choice*".

## Support Planning

Support Plans outline what is going well and what is not going well for your child. It also describes what your child's goals and outcomes are for the year ahead. The Personal Budget can be used as creatively as you like as long as it helps your child to achieve the outcomes identified in the Support Plan.

The Support Plan also helps to think about what other supports are available that can be accessed without a personal budget.

There are lots of ways children and young people in East Lothian have used their personal budgets. This could include play equipment, activities, technology, breaks, membership of organisations or attractions, travel costs, a personal assistant... whatever will best meet your child's needs.

East Lothian Council Children's Disability Team  
John Muir House, Haddington EH41 3HA

0120 0.1M

# Supporting children with disabilities

Information  
for children and  
young people with  
disabilities and  
their families



The council's Children's Disability Team supports children and young people with disabilities, and their families. Our dedicated team offers targeted support in cases where a child or young person's disability is significantly impacting on their and their family's daily life, through support plans, funding advice and services such as **Share the Care** short breaks.



If you'd like to find out more, please call us on **01875 824 309** and ask for the Children's Disability Team. Alternatively email us at [childrenandfamilies@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:childrenandfamilies@eastlothian.gov.uk) [disabilityteam@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:disabilityteam@eastlothian.gov.uk) or visit [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/sharethecare](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/sharethecare)

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Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotope or in your own language. Please phone Customer Services if you require assistance on 01620 827199

### Who do we work with?

The Children's Disability Team have specific eligibility criteria. We typically support children and young people who have:

- Severe or profound physical disability
- Profound sensory disability
- Complex health needs including progressive conditions
- Life-limiting conditions
- Moderate to severe developmental delay/ learning disability
- Autism where there is another disability of a severe or profound nature
- A combination of disabilities that have a significant impact on the child.



### How do I make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral to us by phoning the council's Contact Centre on **01875 824309**. An adviser will help you to complete the referral which we will then consider. We may then visit you for further information and to discuss whether you are eligible for support from the team.

If the support criteria is not met, we can still signpost you to other services who can help. You can also request a *Child Planning Meeting* to assist with planning and coordinating supports by talking to your child's school or health visitor.

### Referral Pathway

